

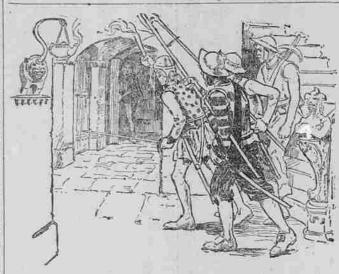
CHAPTER XIII.

(Continued).

Surprised and soniewhat anxious at heart, Sholto cast over in his mind all the deeds, good and evil, which might proceive him the honor of an interview with Earl William Douglas, but could think of nothing except his having involuntarily played the sup at the young with Earl William Douglas, but could think of nothing except his having involuntarily played the sup at the young was the young and the surprise of the



castle was closed at the foot where it opened upon the hall of the guard by a spaired iron gate, the key of which was put into Sholto's charge. The night closed early upon the castled was put into Sholto's charge. The night closed early upon the castled was put into Sholto's charge. The night closed early upon the castled was an an an assured step. The conditions are the close in all the outer tents and pavillens, but the lamps and cande burned longer in the castle, when the castle when th



SHOLTO SAW A FIGURE SLIP INTO A ROOM.

arated from his masters, and slept with some part of the guard in the turret adjacent to that in which the brothers of Douglas, William and David lay in the first sleep of youth and an early mind.

Sholto therefore found himself left with the undivided responsibility for the safety of the castle and all who dwelt within it. He was also the only man who, by reason of his churge and by virtue of his master key, was parmitted to circulate through all the floors and passages of the vast feudal pile.

CHAPTER XVI.

SHOLTO CAPTURES A PRISONER. SHOLTO CAPTURES A PRISONER. He found that the noise came from the chamber occupied by the little Lady Margaret. When he arrived at the door be found it open to the wall. The child was sitting up on her bed, clothed in the white garmentry of the night white garmentry of the night benefing over her, with her arms thrown round the heaving shoulders of the little girl. Sholto saw Mand Lindesay, clad in a hooded mantle thrown with the appearance of haste about her. The door of the next chamber also stood wide, and from the coverlets cast on the ficor it was obvious that its occupant had left it hastly in order to fly to her friend's assistance.

As he went down the stairs he results of the charm of her beauty and myriad winsome graces.

As he went down the stairs he results of the charm of her beauty and myriad winsome graces.

peared from the face of the earl as Sholto spoke.

Smillingly he dismissed the guard with a word, saying that be would inquire into the cause of the disturbance in person, and then turned to Sholto.

"You are right," he said, "you have entirely done your duty, and justified my appointment."

He paused, looked this way and that along the corridor, and continued: "It chanced that in the tower without I could not sleep, and, feeling uneasy concerning my guests. I entered the castle by the private door and staircuse which leads from the spartment corresponding to this on the floor beneath. I was assuring myself that you were doing your duty, when, being disturbed by the sudden habbish, and judging it needless that the men-atarms should know of my presence in the castle, I came in hither till the matter should have blown over. And so, but for your good conscience and the keenness of your vision, the matter would have ended."

Sholto bowed coldly.

But, my lord, he said, ignoring the carl's explanation, "the matter grows more mysterious than ever. Your sister, the little Lady Margaret, hath

thought you saw!" Is sword, which he had held with the point towards the ground while he was speaking with his

and need with the point towards the ground while he was speaking with his lord, the earl.

Holding the blade midway with much deference he presented the hilt to William Douglas.

"Will you examine the point of this sword!" he said.

The earl came a step nearer to him and Sholto advanced the sword till it was immediately beneath the lamp. There was blood upon the last inch or so of the blade. The earl suddenly became violently agitated.

"This is indeed passing strange! There is no dog within the eastle nor has there been for years. Even the presence of a lap dog will fret my mother, so in my father's time they were every one removed to the kennels at the further end of the isis of Thrieve whence even their howling cannot be heard. But let us go to the Lady Margaret and on our way examine the blace where you saw the amparition.

heard. But let us go to the Lady Margaret and on our way examine the place where you saw the apparition. Sholto stood aside for the earl to pass, but with a wave of his hand the latter said courteously, 'Nay, but lead the way, captain of the guard."

They passed the door of the chamber of the Lady Sybilia. The niece of the ambarsador must have been a sound sieeper, for there was no sound within. Opposite was the chamber of the earl's mother. She also appeared undisturbed, but the increasing deafness of the counters offered a complete ex-

disturbed, but the increasing deafness of the countess offered a complete explanation of her tranquillty. Next the two young men came to the door of the marshal's chamber. As they were about to poss, it opened silently, and a man servant with a closely-cropped obsequious head appeared within. He unclosed the door no further than would permit of his exit, and then he shut it again behind him, and stood holding the latch in his hand.
"His excellency, being over fatigued,

hath need of a little strong spirit," he said with a curious gobbiling movement of his throat, as if he himself had been thirsty. The earl ordered Shoito to wake the cellarer and hid him bring the ambassador of France that which he required. He himself would go onward to his stater's chamber. Shoito somewhat sullenly obeyed, for his heart was hot and angry within him. He thought that he began to see clearly the motive of the earl's presence. He was himself so despity and hopelessly in love with Allatress Mand Lindesay that he could not understand any other of his sex being insensible

on the fleor it was obvious that its octupant had left it hastly in order to fly to her friend's assistance.

At the sound of hasty footsteps Mand Lindesay turned about and was instantly stricken pale and astonished by the sight of the young man with his sword bare. She cried aloud with a stern and sad countenance: "Shotto MacKim, what do you here?"

And hefore he had time to answer her, the little girl looked at him out of her friend's arms and called out, "Oh, Shotto, Shotto, I am so gind you are come. I swoke to find such a terrible thing looking at me out of the night. It was shaped like a great dog, but it was rough of hide had upon it a head like a man. I was so terrified that at first I could not cry out, but when it came nearer, then I cried, Do not go away, Sholto, I am glad, so stad that you are here."

Mand Lindesay had again turned toward Margaret.

"Hush!" she said, soothingly. "It was a dream. You were frightened by a vision, by a nightthare, by a vision of the might! There is no dog within the castle."

"But I saw it plainty," she cried. "It opened the door, as if it had hands—I to feel the door as if it had hands—I to feel the doct of single feel of his lish had was fough of his and the castle."

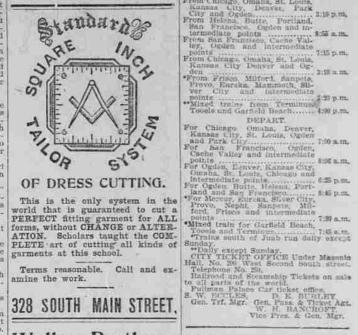
"But I saw it plainty," she cried. "It opened the door, as if it had hands—I as a single good of the others mace, that such atlendance was not seemly when a man was going a-courting.

As he went down the stairs he recilled a thousand circumstances to mind which now seemed exapable of but the was evident that the was evident that the was evident that the was evident that the examinor of her plants of crimmatation. It was evident that the value of the private staircase under say and the might be aircady privately staircase under lead of high mily, who devised, another match for him. For, though the almost regal house of the head of the almost regal house of the head of the almost regal house of the head of the almost regal

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